

FINANCES OF TB SANATORIA

The cost of caring for tuberculous patients in Canadian hospitals in 1958 amounted to an estimated \$40 million, according to the financial supplement to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics' annual report on tuberculosis. The operating expenses of 51 out of 57 public tuberculosis sanatoria decreased 5.5 per cent in 1958 to \$30,410,000 from \$32,190,000 in the preceding year. Salaries and wages accounted for close to 59 per cent of expenditures, and food for 15 per cent. Government agencies accounted for 92 per cent of revenues in this field.

In spite of the fall in total expenditure, the cost climbed to a new peak of \$9.22 a day for a single patient in 1958, from \$8.54 in the preceding year. At the same time, the number of patient days-of-care declined 14.5 per cent. Net salaries and wages by "patient day" averaged \$5.43 in 1958; food was \$1.34, medical and surgical supplies were 28¢, and other operating expenditures were \$2.18.

The patient-day cost was highest in Alberta at \$14.84, followed closely by British Columbia at \$14.60, Nova Scotia at \$11.54, New Brunswick \$11.47, Saskatchewan \$10.32, Newfoundland \$9.71, Ontario \$8.81, Prince Edward Island \$8.70, and Quebec \$6.84.

* * * *

NUCLEAR PROJECT HALF FINISHED

Construction of Canada's first nuclear-electric generating station has reached the half-way mark.

The \$32,000,000 Nuclear Power Demonstration (NPD) project being built by Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, Canadian General Electric Company Limited and Ontario Hydro entered a new stage last month as contractors began installation of mechanical and electrical equipment in the powerhouse.

The first components of the station's 20,000-kilowatt conventional turbogenerator arrived at the site late in November. The installation of this equipment and coolant and moderator piping will start this month. The Canadian-designed, Canadian-built reactor will use natural uranium as a fuel and heavy water as coolant and moderator.

NPD is scheduled to begin delivering power to Ontario Hydro's Southern Ontario System by mid-1961.

A construction force of approximately 230 is working at the 560-acre Ottawa River site 20 miles upstream from Chalk River and 150 miles west northwest of Ottawa.

The structural work on the L-shaped main building and on the pump house is nearly finished. The main building, 272 by 180 feet, will contain the generating hall and control, service and administration wings.

The reactor itself will be housed in a concrete vault approximately 50 feet below

ground. Excavation for the station sub-structure involved the removal of nearly 20,000 cubic yards of rock. The pouring of 12,000 cubic yards of concrete for the sub-structure continued through last winter in below-zero temperatures. The lowest point below ground is the dump tank room, nearly 85 feet down.

The station's 150-foot concrete ventilating stack was completed in October.

The pump house, situated on the river bank about 250 feet from the main building, will supply the station with approximately 24,000 gallons of water a minute for cooling purposes. The water will not come in contact with radioactive materials and will be returned to the Ottawa River in a pure state, but warmer.

When in service, NPD will need a staff of about 68 to operate it 24 hours a day. To provide lodgings in the town of Deep River, A.E.C.L. and Ontario Hydro are to share the cost of 42 houses that will be built in the community.

NPD is being built to provide experience in the design, construction and operation of a nuclear-electric generating station, as well as to serve as a training facility for personnel. It will also provide information for the design and construction of the first full-scale, 200,000-kilowatt nuclear plant, known as CANDU, which is scheduled to be in operation near Kincardine on Lake Huron by late 1964 or early 1965.

* * * *

PUBLIC FINANCE STATISTICS

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has released a publication entitled "Comparative Statistics of Public Finance, 1945 and 1951-1959". It shows comparative data for the three levels of government -- federal, provincial and municipal -- for the fiscal years ended nearest to December 31. These data were first published in two volumes for the Federal Department of Finance, for use at the meeting of Dominion-Provincial Ministers of Finance and provincial treasurers in Ottawa, October 15 and 16 of this year.

The need for a periodic summarization of the public finance statistics published annually by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics has been evident for some time and this report, as an historical summary, brings together already published material. These data are to be issued at five-year intervals in similar but expanded form.

Net general revenue of the three levels of government (after elimination of inter-governmental transfers) amounted to \$3,624,415,000 in 1945, with the Federal Government receiving \$2,957,467,000, provincial governments \$321,759,000 and municipal governments \$345,189,000. For 1958 the total was estimated at \$7,979,328,000, comprising \$5,054,000,000 for the Federal Government, \$1,688,862,000 for provincial governments and \$1,236,466,000 for municipal governments.